radar data to the meteorological community and interested partners. Research at NSSL has led to greater knowledge and improved forecasts of tornadoes, flash floods, damaging winds, hail, lightning, heavy snow, ice and freezing rain.

Early on, NSSL researchers recognized the potential of Doppler radar to improve the detection and warning of severe weather. NSSL built the first real-time displays of Doppler velocity data, which led to discoveries of tornado-related radar ''signatures.'' The successful demonstration that Doppler radar could help forecasters provide much improved severe thunderstorm and tornado warnings led to the deployment of the Next Generation Weather Radar, NEXRAD, WSR–88D, network of Doppler radars throughout the United States. This important contribution to the Nation was recognized by a Department of Commerce gold medal award, and was the only NOAA research laboratory so recognized.

NSSL continues to be a pioneer in the development of weather radar. The lab is working with the NWS to deploy dual polarization, a planned upgrade to the current NEXRAD Doppler radar hardware that provides more information about precipitation in clouds to better distinguish between rain, ice, hail and mixtures. Such information will help forecasters provide better forecasts and warnings for flash floods, the number one severe weather threat to human life.

In addition, NSSL researchers are adapting state-of-the-art radar technology currently deployed on Navy ships for use in tracking severe weather. Phased array radar reduces the scan or data collection time from 5 or 6 minutes to less than 1 minute, potentially extending the lead time for tornado warnings beyond the current average of 12 minutes. When combined with other technology being developed at NSSL, warning lead times may be extended even farther.

Recently, NSSL collaborated with the University of Oklahoma, Texas Tech, and Texas A&M University to build two new 5–cm mobile Doppler radars. These SMART-Radars—Shared Mobile Atmospheric Research and Teaching Radars—are capable of scanning and penetrating an entire tornadic storm or hurricane, providing critical data needed to understand the mysteries of how tornadoes form and for eventually improving severe storm forecasts and warnings.

During the past few years, scientists from NSSL completed several field experiments to study severe and hazardous weather. In 2003 and 2004, researchers launched weather balloons loaded with instruments into thunderstorms during the Thunderstorm Electrification and Lightning Experiment, or TELEX. The lightning observations they made will be used to improve forecasts and warnings of hazardous weather. In 2002, NSSL hosted the International H2O Project or IHOP, one of the largest weather-related studies ever conducted in the U.S.

NSSL has a research partnership with the Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies, a cooperative institute between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Oklahoma. Additionally, NSSL conducts collaborative research with other NOAH laboratories including the Forecast Systems Laboratory, the Environmental Technologies Laboratory, and the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, as well as the U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army, Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Texas A&M, Texas Tech University, Lockheed Martin, Basic Commerce and Industries, Weather Decision Technologies, WeatherNews International, Inc., WeatherData, Inc., and Salt River Project.

I congratulate the National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, OK, on their first 40 years. Based on their performance since 1964, I believe we can expect many more years of pioneering scientific research from this outstanding institution, their academic, government and private sector partners, and their many scientists and technicians.

LOSING GROUND

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it has been nearly a month since Republican congressional leadership and the President allowed the assault weapons ban to expire. This lack of action made it potentially easier for criminals and terrorists to acquire 19 previously banned assault weapons that could be used to harm innocent Americans. Adding insult to injury, the House of Representatives last week passed legislation that would make families in the Nation's capital even more susceptible to gun crime.

The misnamed District of Columbia Personal Protection Act, which passed the House last week, would repeal a local law in Washington, DC that bans the sale and possession of unregistered firearms, requires firearm registration, imposes commonsense safe storage requirements, and bans semiautomatic weapons in the District. Should this bill become law, tourists and especially those who live and work in our Nation's capital will face a considerably greater threat of gun violence.

According to the Brady Campaign To Prevent Gun Violence, this bill would roll back gun laws in D.C. to a point that it would be legal to possess a loaded assault rifle on city streets without a permit. Over the strong objections of local leaders, the Republican-controlled House made the unwise decision to take up and pass this legislation even as we face the increased threat of terrorism. Hopefully the Senate will not make the same mistake.

Unfortunately, instead of making progress on the issue of gun safety, we seem to be retreating. Instead of strengthening laws that would help prevent future gun crimes and terrorist attacks, they are being weakened giving potential criminals and terrorists easier access to weapons that have no place on our streets. I will continue to work toward reversing this course and toward passing sensible gun safety legislation that will make our communities more, instead of less, safe.

ANABOLIC STEROID CONTROL ACT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate has passed S. 2195, the Anabolic Steroid Control Act, and I commend my colleagues Senators HATCH and BIDEN for their commitment to this important legislation.

While S. 2195 is a positive first step toward protecting the public health, our work is not complete. We must continue to explore ways to improve the Dietary Supplements Health and Education Act, DSHEA, which has provided safe harbor for substances like those made illegal by S. 2195. We must make it more difficult for dietary supplement manufacturers to place harmful substances into the stream of commerce, and require that such manufacturers report to the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, adverse health events suffered by consumers when using their products. We must also demand that best practices for the manufacture of dietary supplements be developed by the FDA and followed by the supplement industry to ensure the efficacy and safety of these products.

RWANDA AND SUDAN: SIMPLY RECOGNIZING GENOCIDE IS NOT ENOUGH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this summer and fall, a lot of us have been drawing comparisons between Sudan today and Rwanda a decade ago. The October 4, 2004 edition of the New York Times contains a piece furthering this argument by one who is uniquely qualified to do so: retired General Roméo Dallaire, who was the commander of the United Nations forces in Rwanda during the genocide.

Ten years ago, General Dallaire pleaded for more troops to stem the rising tide of murders that were sweeping across Rwanda. Instead of sending reinforcements, the United Nations cut his peacekeeping force from 3,000 to 500, leaving Dallaire and his troops to witness the mass killings that they did not have a prayer of stopping. In the aftermath of this decision, 800,000 people died in 100 days.

Ten years ago, the African Union promised battalions to stop the killing but lacked the equipment and logistical support to come to the assistance of Dallaire and the people of Rwanda. Those forces never arrived in any numbers.

Today, genocide is again taking place, this time in Sudan. Secretary General Kofi Annan has recognized it. President Bush has recognized it. But